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5 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the Director

SUBJECT: : Conversation with Joel Swerdlow, 4 November 1975

This is in regard to the call by Joel Swerdlow, reporter for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate, concerning the academic relations program of the Agency.

1. For your information, Swerdlow attended the briefing in the auditorium on Saturday given to the D.C. Chapter of the American Political Science Association. He asked about the nature of the academic relations program and how many guests came to the Agency in the course of the year. I used a gross number which Mr. Colby used with the Minority Employment Conference (10,000). He in turn asked what my job entailed and I explained that it is mainly to monitor the substantive relationships between Agency analysts in the Directorate for Intelligence and researchers and academics who are not members of the government. The purpose of such an interchange is to keep our analysts abreast of the most current thinking in their area of specialization.

2. I explained to him that most of the DDI professionals are active in one way or another with their professional associations, and are often recognized by their colleagues as leading scholars in their fields. He asked if there had been a decline in the response of academics to have contact with the Agency, and I told him that from my knowledge, our academic relations of a substantive nature had never been stronger. He asked why and I gave him a few reasons, one of which was the academics' respect for colleagues who worked in the Agency and the need to keep abreast of government thinking. Another was increased sophistication of the academics in understanding that the Agency analyst is not a cloak-and-dagger type. I also stressed to him the enduring patriotism of the number of people with whom we deal who feel that they should be helpful to the government. I did not minimize the fact that academics see some advantage in dealing with people who are on the frontiers of information in their particular fields.

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3. Swerdlow asked what the relationship of analysts to operations was and I said the main bridge was information. DDI analysts have the responsibility to pass information to the executive policymakers, and the Operations Directorate has the responsibility to collect some of that information for the analysts. Thus, it's information from the operators to the analysts, and requirements from the analysts to the operators, but beyond that their functions are quite separate.

4. I gave Swerdlow a rough idea of the directorate breakdown of the Agency which had been presented at the Saturday briefing but which he had missed. He asked about morale of the analysts as opposed to the operations officers. I said that some people felt quite depressed about the investigations while others took it pretty much in stride, and there was no Agency norm.

STATINTL

DDI Coordinator for Academic Relations